

# If I Were Mayor...

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A mayor plays an important role in our community. They lead the local government and make sure that everything runs smoothly. They manage budgets and keep public services running smoothly. Some of their main tasks include fixing up roads and buildings, making sure everyone feels safe, and helping businesses grow. Plus, they work to get the community involved in these efforts. The choices a mayor makes can affect how people live their daily lives and the community's overall health. So, having a good mayor is important for everyone.

If I were mayor, I'd have some exciting ideas! First of all, I'm worried about the growing issue of homelessness in our city. I think it's important that we try to help those in need. Also, I noticed that nicotine products are everywhere and advertised a lot, making it too easy for people to start unhealthy habits. Another thing I'd focus on is cleaning up our city to make it a nicer place for everyone. I also believe we should create fun activities for kids, like a youth city council where they can express their ideas about parks, school events, and

community happenings. Lastly, I think we need to have higher expectations within our schools, especially when it comes to student behavior.

The problem of homelessness is a serious challenge. One idea I have is to let homeless people help with community clean-up projects in exchange for food and shelter. This way, they can feel like they're contributing, and it can help make our neighborhoods cleaner and nicer. Plus, it could help them start to break the cycle of homelessness.

Creating a Kids' City Council would be my next idea. It would give kids opportunities to share their thoughts about things that matter to them, such as parks or school events. They potentially could meet regularly to discuss their ideas and work on projects to make help their neighborhoods better. Kids have different perspectives, and they could come up with some great suggestions through a "kid" perspective. By doing this, every kid would feel heard and valued!

Another thing I would do as mayor is to improve the health and well-being of the community, and a way to start is to promote a healthier lifestyle. Nicotine products are marketed in ways that need to change. There are lots of ads that are colorful and convincing which try to make consuming nicotine products look cool, even though we all see that it's harmful. These products are easily found, from corner stores to online websites, which makes it too convenient for people to

start using nicotine products. As mayor I would work with lawmaker to make stricter rules about how nicotine products are sold and advertised. This way, we can help promote healthier choices and prevent future generations from getting hooked on nicotine, which leads to long-term health issues.

Supporting local businesses is vital for keeping our community lively and our economy strong. One way to help is by shopping at local stores instead of big chains. When you eat at local restaurants, you not only discover new foods but also support small businesses in our area. As mayor, I would promote all of the local businesses from online social media to posters outside. Getting involved in local events like farmers' markets or fairs is a fun way to connect with local vendors and strengthen the community. Sharing your favorite local spots on social media can help them gain more customers, too. Leaving positive reviews and joining loyalty programs are also good ways to support small businesses. During holidays, consider buying gift cards from local shops. Every little bit helps our local economy thrive! As mayor, I would be encouraging to do so, also I would be excited to start a little after-school program that would encourage students to go out in the community and help while also learning what a community is! They could help the businesses and have some community volunteer hours. An additional idea to this concept would be making a fun weekend in the fall that is all about shopping at the small businesses in Oregon City.

I believe schools should have higher expectations for students' behavior to make learning better for everyone. When students act out, it distracts not only them but also their classmates. By setting clear expectations and consequences for bad behavior, schools can create a more respectful and responsible environment. This way, every student gets the chance to learn without disruptions, which helps the whole school succeed. As mayor, I would go to every school in Oregon City and implement higher expectations. So that everyone is thriving in that environment.

In conclusion, if I were mayor, my focus would be on addressing the issues that impact our community's well-being and future. By tackling homelessness through community involvement, creating opportunities for youth engagement with a Kids' City Council, implementing higher expectations and regulations on nicotine products, supporting local businesses, and improving school policies for better student behavior, I believe we could further a healthier, more collective community. These initiatives would not only improve the quality of life for the residents of Oregon City, but also empower individuals to take an active role in shaping their environment . That's what I would do for my community if I were mayor.